

THE Gateway

Thought
*Think where man's
 glory most begins and
 ends. And say my
 glory was I had such
 friends.*
 —W. B. Yeats

Gifted children explore skills in special UNO program

By TOM HASSING

"Quiet in the studio," the director barked into the microphone attached to his headset. "Get ready to roll VTR."

VTR — that's video jargon for video tape recorder. There were four students manning the control booth: two sitting, two standing.

"OK, roll VTR." One operated the video board; another controlled audio. "Ready to cue talent." The third person's job was to cue the actors, and the fourth directed. "Cue talent."

The scene they were taping looked tricky, involving what they call mixed media. It amounted to several superimpositions, both visual and auditory — and it wasn't working especially well, and time was running short. Still, the producers didn't want to stop.

"Can we try it again? Have we got time to run through it one more time?" They repeated the question during a succession of botched attempts, and then, finally, the control booth staff made it through the sophisticated switches that opened the scene — all was going well — until an actor missed a line. That was it, a wrap for the day.

There are 39 students currently using the radio and television production facilities at Technical High School. They are among about 500 students, from pre-schoolers to ninth graders, participating in the fifth annual UNO Summer Program for Gifted

Youth. All but the sixth through ninth graders who study media at Tech have been meeting at UNO.

Sponsored by the College of Continuing Studies and College of Education, the program began June 7 and will continue through July 1. Designed to give participants hands-on experience in developing and exploring skills in specific areas, the curriculum is broken down into several "strands" by age groupings and academic topics. Areas of instruction include physical education for pre-schoolers and kindergarteners, while older students study sciences, math, communication and computer science.

Paul Ackerson, a co-leader in the math/science strand for third through seventh graders, said he does little lecturing in the classroom but instead gets students directly involved in experiments. He said students taught this way show a higher level of interest.

"They (students) never get a chance to think for themselves," Ackerson said, explaining why he doesn't use traditional techniques even in a conventional classroom.

After describing several different experiments performed by students in two adjoining rooms, Ackerson demonstrated the students' level of interest in their work by asking, "Have you noticed that they don't even know we're here?"

Seventy-one teachers and aides from local school districts, colleges and universities guide the children. While the program itself does not identify or select gifted students who participate, Helen Howell, co-director of the program, said criteria for enrollment includes recommendation by a school official, enrollment

in another gifted program, or test scores indicating the student is performing two years above his or her chronological age level.

The cost of enrollment in the four-week-long program is \$60 for children at or below the second grade level. These children attend classes for two hours a day. Older students, who attend for three hours a day, pay \$90.

Jean Bressler, associate professor of education at UNO and co-director of the program, said six or seven children were able to enroll in the program this year because of anonymous donations and funds raised by high school organizations. She said the donations were given directly to schools, which selected the participants.

Howell, professor of teacher education, said the program pays for staffing and materials, so the only cost to the university is building maintenance. Bressler added that a number of precautions have been taken to prevent the youngsters from disrupting regular activities on campus.

The students using computers on the fifth floor of Kayser Hall, for example, have been instructed to use the stairwells rather than the elevators, she said. Classes for the gifted students are scheduled during the afternoon.

The program this year was restricted to about 500 students because of limited classroom space and also because of the limited number of computer terminals, Bressler said. Howell added that in the computer strand, which offers instruction at five different levels of ability, there are about two students for each terminal.



Roger Hamer

Radical at work

Where have all the radicals of the '60s gone? Not all of them went underground. Some, like Dave Sink, still live and work in Omaha. Sink's memories of his liberal awakening on page 2 kicks off a new series of articles about UNO's radicals. Here, Sink (right), assistant managing editor of the Sun Newspapers, interviews Playboy cartoonist Howard Shoemaker.

Senate establishes new liaison

Student Government has established a new lobbying organization in order to better deal with issues that directly affect UNO, according to Don Carlson.

The Council for Community and Legislative Relations, he said, will enable UNO students to address specific issues as opposed to the Nebraska State Student Association (NSSA), a lobbying group that concerns itself with broad issues that affect all of Nebraska's state colleges and universities.

Carlson, chairman of the Student Senate's Student Affairs Committee and proponent of CCLR, said the council also will serve as a public relations tool for Student Government.

The council was established

by the senate in April. Carlson is interim director.

In addition to publishing the Student Senate Review, a newsletter, CCLR also will establish liaisons with the legislature, NSSA, the City Council, and the Faculty Senate, Carlson said.

The council is seeking a permanent director, an editor for the newsletter, a public relations director, and researchers, he added.

"We are currently looking for dedicated people who are interested in the university, and issues that affect it, to fill many of the positions," Carlson said.

The council should be fully established by the fall semester.

At present, CCLR is focusing on two issues: parking at Elmwood Park and a work-study program vetoed by Gov. Kerrey in the last legislative session, according to Carlson.

The council will operate in the following manner: If a student or student group is concerned about a particular issue, it should be brought to the attention of CCLR.

The council will then research the issue and, if warranted, bring it before the senate for consideration, Carlson said. If the senate agrees the issue is important, CCLR will be directed to begin lobbying efforts. Such efforts will consist of letter-writing, telephone calls, and visits to politicians who will vote on the issue.

Chancellor outlines plan to fulfill ombudsman role

By CAROL TSUJI

Chancellor Del Weber has decided to replace the UNO ombudsman office with three part-time employees.

Weber told members of the Student Senate last week that the positions will be filled by one person from the office of business and finance, one from educational and student services, and one from the faculty.

The office of ombudsman officially expires June 30. Weber decided to eliminate it last year because of budget problems.

Weber also said individuals selected for the part-time positions won't be hired on the basis of representing a particular interest — student, faculty, and so on. "That will be up to the individual," he said.

Having three people perform the function of an ombudsman should ensure broad representation of the campus, Weber said. The administration originally proposed that the office be run by two part-time employees.

According to Weber, the new make-up of the office should enable the university to save about \$30,000. The ombudsman office was previously budgeted for about \$36,000.

Positions for the office will not be advertised or open for application, Weber said, and no one

has yet been appointed. "I have thoughts on who could serve but I'm open to suggestions," he said.

Weber also thanked the senate for its support of LB410, a bill authorizing \$3.3 million for campus improvements at UNO that was recently signed into law by the governor.

UNO has requested the Board of Regents to authorize the money for purchase of land west of UNO. Weber said "acquisition of land to the west will be an important landmark in the history of this university."

He also said he sympathizes with neighbors who oppose the expansion. "I'll be glad when this whole thing is behind us," he said. "(And) there will be a time when UNO will no longer be thought of in terms of a university with no place to park. I hope some of you will be around to share in that."

In other matters, the senate:

—Asked Weber if he supports the proposed day care center at UNO. "Without pre-judging, the major concern I have is that it not cost the university money. I don't anticipate any great difficulty with the concept," he said.

—Organized a task force to study the possibility of purchasing a computer for the Student Government office.

Inside

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'Late-blooming radical' Sink provides alternate view

First of a series.

By STEVE PENN

Some of them are lawyers now. One sells awnings in Minneapolis. Others ply any of a number of arts and crafts and at least one is an editor of a local newspaper.

Who are they?

Their political and social counterparts used the term "radical" to describe them during the '60s. By comparison with prevailing social attitudes at the time, the term seems accurate enough.

Civil rights. Vietnam protests. Social freedom. The "radicals" were the champions of these and other liberal causes supported by individuals wanting to rid themselves of the fetters of what they considered to be a stifling society.

Dave Sink, assistant managing editor of Omaha's Sun Newspapers, remembers the times and the people well. He was there, one of the "radicals" — albeit a late bloomer.

At 34, the tall, thin Sink speaks softly in carefully chosen language. Beneath his long, curly hair and behind his wire-rim glasses, his inquiring, intelligent eyes invite comment and debate.

Most nights you'll find him in his chair at the Antiquarium bookstore downtown, the place to go for a free cup of coffee and a bit of armchair philosophizing.

As an editor of a weekly newspaper, Sink faithfully performs the routine editorial rituals of his job, but he is most at home behind his black manual typewriter, banging out the "edits" he asserts are the only alternative to the conservative voice of the Omaha World-Herald.

Conservatism

His recollections of the '60s and the time he spent on the Omaha University campus during its mild version of anti-war and civil rights activities are especially colorful because he views them from the perspective of a reactionary-turned-liberal.

Sink said he first was attracted to the conservative line of thought while still in high school.

"What drew me to it was the strong emphasis on individual liberty," said Sink.

"We later became convinced that the chief threat to this individualism was not the government, as Goldwater thought, but the corporate state."

After he enrolled at OU in 1966, Sink said he began a slow process of ideological change.

"I sometimes think it takes me far too long to grasp these things," said Sink of his liberal awakening.

At first, however, Sink did not see eye to eye with liberals on most issues. While attending OU (later UNO) as a young conservative, he helped organize the first campus chapter of the Young Americans for Freedom.

Even so, his latent liberal fibers appeared to be stretched taut from the start. "We were not philosophically true YAFers," said

Sink. Describing the UNO YAF as "exclusively independent," Sink said "we did not agree with national policy with regard to the Students for Democratic Society."

The national YAF organization had issued statements urging campus chapters to vigorously oppose the formation of SDS chapters on their campuses.

As the first chief of the UNO chapter of YAF, Sink departed from national policy and successfully pushed for the right of SDS to become involved on the OU campus.

It was during this time that many new groups were springing up on college campuses throughout the country.

In 1967, when SDS tried to gain status as an official student organization, OU had a "much different flavor" than today, said Sink.

Dress codes, social cliques and an "impotent" student government characterized the provincial atmosphere of the university, according to Sink.

"Unless you were a member of a fraternity or sorority, you

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had no chance of becoming a member of the student council. It wasn't written into anything, it was simply that no independent was ever elected," he said.

Shift

Sink realized he had entered OU while it was on the brink of a social and political shift to the left. While not as conservative as some of his companions at the time, Sink still wasn't ready to make the switch to the more radical, activist movement.

Still, he noticed the change. "Shortly after I entered the university, things began to happen," he recalled.

Those changing years brought protests of George Wallace's appearance, the takeover of the chancellor's office by the Black

Liberators for Action on Campus and the unofficial UNO moratorium on U.S. involvement in Vietnam.

One of the people responsible for making things happen at UNO was Lothar Luken, "a rather radical sort of fellow," Sink recalled.

In 1968 Luken began to stir things up on campus, much to the chagrin of student leaders. He passed out left wing literature and continually scoffed at student government.

As student editor of the university newspaper, "he did something interesting," said Sink with a nostalgic twinkle in his eye. "He took the *Gateway*, which up until then was an uninteresting social rag, and turned it into a full-blown modern college newspaper, complete with an underground news service, a staff that probed university affairs, and a political column."

By late 1968 and 1969, many followed in Luken's wake. Dan Powers, who ran unsuccessfully for a seat on the City Council last year, was one who "always had that Yippie style about him," said Sink.

"He tried to break the Greek deadlock on campus. He also tried to run his dog for homecoming queen."

In another incident, Sink recalled that Michael Richardson, a political science student and campus leader of the Young Democrats, wrote a letter to the Omaha World-Herald suggesting that the nativity scene in front of the courthouse downtown violated the laws of separation of church and state and was therefore obscene.

"This caused the Democratic Party to disavow any knowledge of him," said Sink, laughing.

While these seeds of radical activity were taking root, Sink was wrestling with his own convictions.

While he is careful not to correlate the radical movement exclusively with the Vietnam war, Sink admits it was the impetus for him to change his way of thinking.

"At first I saw it exclusively as the propagandists in this country portrayed it to be — the great fight between the forces of dictatorial communism and the free government in South Vietnam. It became clear that what was really going on had little resemblance to that. I began to see the hypocrisy of the whole thing. The ugly reality of hypocrisy turned us off."

By the summer of 1969, Sink said he had become a "full-blown radical."

The awareness of what the country was experiencing, what he was experiencing and what it all meant, changed Dave Sink.

"It was exciting. It was a rebellion against a social structure which was suffocating the individual."

Leaning back in the plastic orange chair in the Sun Newspaper lunchroom, Sink glowed as he recalled those "good old days."

"People are probably sick of hearing, 'You should have been around in the '60s.' But that period was so culturally fruitful. As I look back, it seems like a fulfillment of that old Chinese saying, 'May you live in interesting times.' "

ADVERTISEMENT

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Omaha, Nebraska

Newspaper seeks fall staff

by Future Stardom

Working at the *Gateway* "was my best college opportunity to put into practice what I had learned in the classroom," says Carol Schrader, KETV anchorperson, of her experience with the UNO student newspaper.

Many professional journalists, both local and national, have gained valuable first-hand knowledge while working at the *Gateway*. Such notables include: Schrader; Pulitzer Prize winner Paul Henderson, a reporter for the *Seattle Times*; *World-Herald* staff writers Larry King, David Krajicek, Dick Ulmer, reviewer Roger Catlin and *Omaha Sun* asst. managing editor Dave Sink.

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Schrader . . . a *Gateway* staff member for three years.

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Movies

Surprise — Superman saves the day again

Following "Superman II," who could have envisioned another sequel?

After all, the relationship between Superman and Lois Lane had climaxed, and what would a Superman movie be without Lois Lane?

Well, we find out in "Superman III." Lane (Margot Kidder), leaves on vacation as the movie begins and returns just before it ends. Surprisingly, the movie gets along pretty well without her.

Superman doesn't find a new girlfriend, but Clark Kent does. Lana Lang, played by Annette O'Toole, is an old classmate Kent meets at his high school reunion.

With the obligatory love interest taken care of, all the movie needed was some villains.

Robert Vaughn helps fill the bill by playing a greedy millionaire named Ross Webster. He is the boss of computer whiz Gus Gorman (Richard Pryor) and is assisted by a frigid sister named Vera (Annie Ross).

Webster also has what he calls a "psychic nutritionist" named Lorelei Ambrosia (Pamela Stephenson.) Lorelei acts as if she is a dumb, pretty blonde, but is actually a closet intellectual. She reads Kant when her boss is not in the room leering at her.

The Websters, of course, want to take over the world. They get Gus to help them after he confesses to embezzling from the company.

So, Superman to the rescue, right? Well, not quite yet.

Gus figures out how to make kryptonite, but leaves out an unknown ingredient, apparently a vital one.

The kryptonite doesn't kill Superman, but rather turns him into a drunken womanizer who cares only for himself and his base urges. A "normal person," Vera remarks.

Kids in the audience seemed upset that the man of steel could be less than a superman. But I thought the sight of Superman, in a filthy suit and with a day's growth of beard, using his powers to commit juvenile pranks gave the film an interesting twist.

Of course, while Superman is a bum, it is much easier for the evil villains to go about trying to take over the world.

To do that, they build a supercomputer that will do just about everything — except follow orders.

Does Superman return to his clean-cut, do-gooding self to save the day? Do you even have to ask?

He does not, however, have an easy time of it.

Superman must conquer not only the villains, but the computer as well. It seems to have a mind of its own.

All of this develops a bit slowly (it is certainly not as exciting as the second Superman episode), but it is interesting.

Pryor's sight gags give the movie some zip, but sometimes detract from the story.

He could have stolen the film were it not for another fine performance by Christopher Reeve, who actually plays a triple role this time out as regular Superman, Superman the bum and Clark Kent.

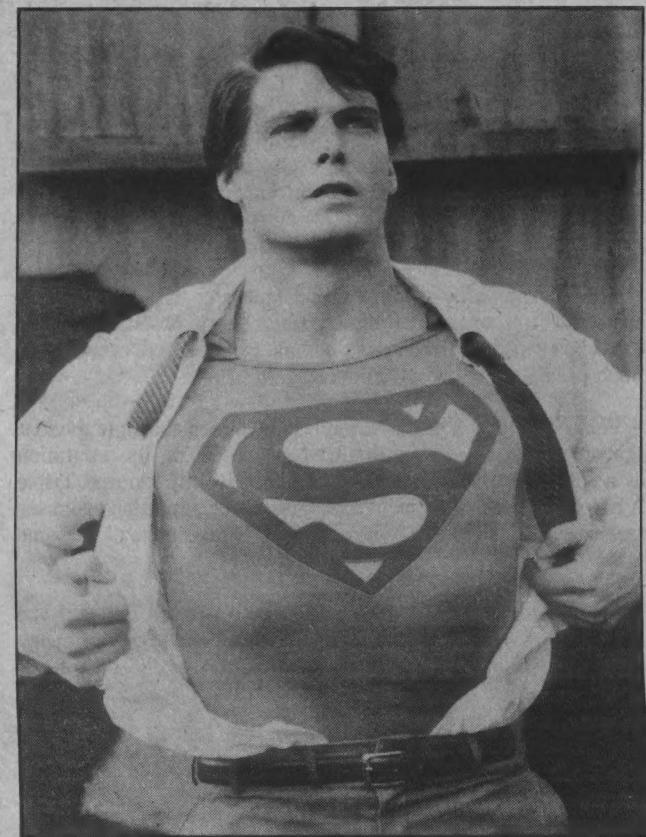
The relationship between Clark Kent and Lana Lang isn't developed much, perhaps because the makers of the movie want to make another episode around it.

Now that a Superman movie has been made chiefly without Lois Lane, the series could seemingly go on forever.

Though not visually as exciting as "Superman II," and a bit far-fetched (even for a Superman movie), "Superman III" is worth seeing.

The movie is rated PG and showing at the Cinema Center.

—CHRIS MANGEN



Triple role . . . Christopher Reeve plays Superman, Superman as a drunken bum, and, of course, mild-mannered reporter Clark Kent.

Books

Johansen reveals relationship of Indians, colonials

Forgotten Founders:
Benjamin Franklin, the Iroquois
and the Rationale for the American Revolution
By Bruce E. Johansen
(Gambit, 167 pages, \$10.95)

Journalism, it has been said, is history's first rough draft. That sentiment is a bit hackneyed for the student of the history of the press, in much the same way that Santayana's observation about ignoring the past, and thus repeating it, has lost much of its luster due to repetition by scholar and politician alike.

And yet clichés were once "not clichés." They served a valuable purpose, enabling the reader or listener to understand something in a concise, crystallized form. It seems appropriate, then, after reading "Forgotten Founders," to consider the book as both journalism and history. It is journalism because of its immediacy, its brevity in telling an important story. It is history because of its scholarly tone, its contribution to our knowledge of what we are as Americans.

Johansen, an assistant professor of communication at UNO, argues in "Forgotten Founders" that Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson and other British colonial Americans were influenced in thought and action by Native American culture, specifically the Iroquois confederacy, which was comprised of six Indian nations.

As Johansen explains it, two dozen historians since the middle of the 19th century had professed the idea only to leave it hanging, unexamined. It was his task to bring these "tantalizing shreds" together in coherent form and enlarge our knowledge of history. A second purpose, Johansen writes, is to rid Americans of remaining stereotypes of Indians as stupid and warlike, incapable of effective political organization.

The idea for the study came while doing research on Washington State Indian tribes for The Seattle Times, a newspaper Johansen worked for in the 1970s.

Relying on his own experience as well as

extensive documentation (a 20-page bibliography accompanies the text), Johansen chronicles how the Iroquois helped Franklin and others gain a sense of being "American," as opposed to being "Euro-American" or British subjects. This is a crucial point, because the Iroquois, as reflected in their constitution ("The Great Law of Peace"), embodied the concept of natural rights so fervently advocated by European philosophers of the time.

As most political science students know, those philosophers (Locke, Rousseau, etc.) are generally credited as having had fundamental influence on the authors of the American Constitution. (In an afterword, Johansen suggests that further research in this area could reveal surprising, and controversial, data about the intellectual foundation for the birth of America. Johansen is reportedly working on a sequel to the book. We can only hope he expands on the theme that the Age of Enlightenment owes a far greater debt to the American Indian than previously thought.)

"Forgotten Founders," besides being a history of the relationship between Native Americans and colonials, also provides a sense of Indian culture, especially the tradition of oral

history. Indeed, it was an encounter with an Indian woman in 1975 that triggered the idea for a doctoral thesis from which the book comes. She informed Johansen that her grandmother told her about the unique relationship between the Iroquois and the colonials.

The book will, no doubt, be considered primarily of interest to academics and students of American history. That is a shame, for while numerous sources are cited in the text, Johansen's prose is devoid of the stodginess people often assume is inherent in works of this nature.

In arguing that all Americans are part of Indian heritage, and perhaps a bit wistful that his countrymen are unaware of it, Johansen writes:

"...we too stand at the edge of a frontier of another kind, wondering with all the curiosity that the human mind can summon what we will find over the crest of the hill in the distance, or around the bend in the river we have yet to see for the first time..."

That is the language of 20 years ago, of more idealistic times. If Americans have any curiosity about their red ancestors left, this book is a good place to start.

—WHITCOMB

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Comment

City deserves to lose ignored baseball club

Another College World Series in Omaha has recently been completed, and the editorials praising the city for being a great haven for baseball are, mercifully, retired for another year.

Much is made by Chamber of Commerce types about this city's devotion to the grand old game. That's based on the 10-day extravaganza of college baseball experienced every June. Such praise, however, is unfounded.

For with every passing season, it becomes glaringly evident that Omaha really isn't interested in preserving its reputation as a so-called baseball town. It has consistently ignored Triple A baseball, unless a supermarket or other organization promises freebie tickets and a chance to gawk at "The Chicken," or some other irritating, distracting sidelight.

Last Monday night, exactly 947 fans turned out to watch the Omaha Royals play division rival Wichita. Such a dismal showing can't be attributed to the play of the team overall — as of this writing, the club is three games out of first place.

The poor support of the Royals, which play in 15,000-seat Rosenblatt Stadium, is especially noteworthy when compared to the attendance performance of the Louisville Redbirds, fast establishing themselves as the best minor league draw in America.

Louisville, which has a population roughly equal to Omaha, set a minor league attendance record last year of more than 800,000. That figure could probably be attained by Omaha after the next eight years.

So, it amuses to see people upset when the new ownership of the Kansas City Royals (Omaha's parent club) announced that the club may be moved to Memphis. "Save our Royals!" was the anguished cry.

But Omaha doesn't deserve to have its Royals saved. Oh, we could go into that soppy stuff about what a great attraction Triple A ball is ("see the stars of tomorrow, watch the journeymen fade," etc.), or how, in today's lousy economic climes, going to a baseball game is still relatively cheap.

We could even wax poetic about watching the great, aging Bobby Bonds at Rosenblatt in 1981 struggle to hang on, showing the occasional form that caused sportswriters to once peg him as the next Willie Mays.

We could do that, but it appears Omahans like their baseball once a year — and played with aluminum hats. It's bad enough that the game in recent years has been blemished with the advent of Astroturf and the designated hitter. Now it seems to have lost its fans in River City — perhaps because it isn't as "spectacular" as Big Red football or as alluring as horse racing.

National Notes

By MAXWELL GLEN and CODY SHEARER

Washington — Approximately \$1.2 billion was spent in 1980 to elect public officials at the national, state and local levels. That figure, according to political finance expert Herbert Alexander of the University of Southern California, is more than double the amount spent in 1976. As one might guess, direct mail and media consultants have been the chief culprits in raising campaign costs.

Americans deducted more than \$295 billion on their individual and corporate tax returns in April. Next year, according to the Joint Committee on Taxation and the Treasury Department, tax deductions and other exclusions will top \$327 billion; by 1988, the figure will approach half a trillion dollars.

While most taxpayers cherish their write-offs, Uncle Sam regards them as little different from the entitlement programs created for less fortunate Americans. Both the Congress and the budget office refer to deductions as "tax expenditures" that boost the deficit much like outlays.

Imagine what would happen to the \$200 billion-plus annual deficit if Congress abolished most of the deductions and instituted a fairer, more straightforward tax code.

Two researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology suggest that American homeowners haven't adopted long-term conservation habits since the 1973 oil embargo.

Bernard Friedan and Kermit Baker contend that most of the last decade's 1.6 percent decline in U.S. residential energy use can be attributed to reduction in household size, internal migration to warmer parts of the country, an increase in the share of women who work during the day, and a decline in household income.

* * * * *

"End Run" department: The American Enterprise Institute, a powerhouse of conservative ideas, thinks it has found a way to free poor women from the cycle of joblessness, welfare and low-wage jobs — self-employment. A nine-month study suggested that a woman's welfare payments could be used to form capital for a new business in which the recipient is employed. Over time, the authors wrote, the need for government subsidy would diminish.

* * * * *

Largely due to administrators' fears about potential legal and budget implications, approximately 40,000 public schools re-



main to be inspected for possible asbestos contamination, according to witnesses at a recent House subcommittee hearing. Unless Congress moves to beef up the Environmental Protection Agency's field staff, they said, many children will remain exposed to the once widely-used fire retardant. The EPA estimates between 100 and 7,000 American school children have suffered excessive exposure to asbestos.

* * * * *

Vice President George Bush, who begins a nine-city European trip later this month, is being pressured to make a July 4 speech in Copenhagen, Denmark. One likely reason: Strong domestic opposition is threatening to force Denmark's conservative government to oppose NATO's planned deployment of new U.S. nuclear missiles in Europe. Some in Washington and Copenhagen believe a pep talk is in order.

* * * * *

The British parliamentary elections two weeks ago prompt a not-so-surprising question in this country: If the Brits can limit their campaign period to 24 days, what's to keep us Yanks from doing something similar?

After all, America's unending presidential circus has only made politics more boring, and made front-runners of those who can best stomach 1,001 nights in Holiday Inns.

Who and what, then, would collude to prevent shortening the presidential schedule? Too many American institutions is the answer.

Journalists, who bear substantial responsibility for encouraging presidential ambitions and early announcements, would have fewer straw polls and Florida trips to bank on.

Consultants and pollsters, who bear an equal responsibility for America's political promiscuity, might be forced to live in middle class neighborhoods.

Politicians would lose an excuse for missing roll call votes. Harold Stassen and John Anderson might lose speaking dates. Ronald Reagan would have to decide his own intentions, dousing months of cocktail party conversation.

Iowa would return to being just another wholesome farm state and New Hampshire would, well, be forgotten.

John T. "Terry" Dolan, the 32-year-old troublemaker who is already planning pro-Reagan television commercials for his National Conservative Political Action Committee, would have to retire.

San Francisco Mayor Diane Feinstein might never make welcoming remarks at a Democratic National Convention. New York Mayor Ed Koch, who undoubtedly has his city's eyes set

on 1988, might have to lay off his "I Love New York" troupe.

No matter how much a sudden death campaign might enthuse the electorate, too many powerful Americans have too much at stake in the system as is. Besides, a common sense system such as Britian's would leave campaign reformers, too, with much less to complain about.

* * * * *

Before delivering his enthusiastic proposal for a space-operated anti-ballistic missile system, President Reagan obviously did not talk to everyone. Robert Cooper, director of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, told a Senate subcommittee recently that the immediate challenge of space weaponry is conceptual, not technical. "We do not even know what research should be initiated or what programs should be strengthened," Cooper told the Armed Services Subcommittee on Strategic and Theater Nuclear Weapons.

* * * * *

No one should ever underestimate the power of a trade association. The National Association of Realtors, which has one of the nation's wealthiest political action committees, drew both White House chief of staff James Baker and Sen. Robert Dole (R-Kan.), as well as more than 150 other members of Congress to its convention here last month. Boasted an association officer to convention delegates: "We'll have those public officials eating shrimp at our feet."

* * * * *

Laos will soon allow U.S. officials to inspect selected areas where American military aircraft crashed during the Indochina war. In return, the U.S. is expected to upgrade diplomatic relations between the two countries to include an exchange of ambassadors.

* * * * *

Only coincidental? Just as the National Commission on Excellence in Education recently called for dramatic measures to improve the quality of American teachers and students, a computer company was issuing press kits boasting the benefits of computer-aided learning.

* * * * *

President Reagan's effort to impose import restrictions on Nicaraguan sugar will hurt more than Mangana's Sandinista government. Despite administration tirades against the Sandinistas' "totalitarian" leanings, the U.S. Embassy in Managua admits that 80 percent of the agriculture and 60 percent of the industry in Nicaragua remains in the private sector.

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THE Gateway

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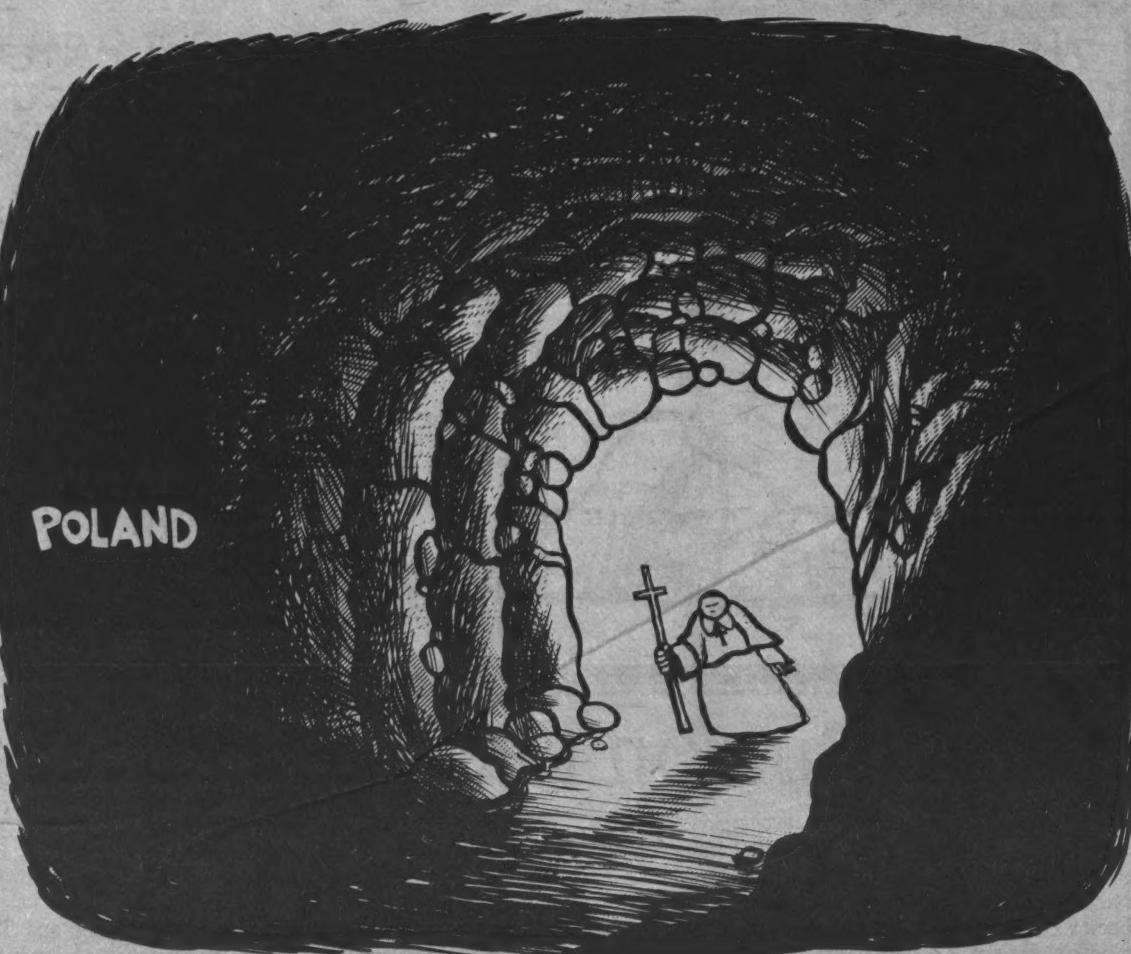
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THE GATEWAY KPRBA '83



Neurotica By Karen Nelson

... Billy's righteous rabble

The Rev. Billy Bob Cornpone, founder and president of the Righteous Rabble, seemed to be in a good mood when I saw him the other day.

"Thank God for the Supreme Court!" he said in a thick Southern accent. "Little lady, those nine heathens were the answer to a country preacher's prayer."

Although I read the papers, I had no idea what the Supreme Court could have possibly done for the Righteous Rabble lately. The Rabble was devoted to items on the right wing agenda such as school prayer, banning abortion, sending women back to the home, abolishing social programs and increasing the defense budget.

Cornpone glanced around the room. Satisfied that no one was watching, he leaned over and whispered, "The Court's recent ruling on state abortion laws was a godsend. Why, it's the greatest thing to happen to my ministry since Ronald Reagan decided to run for president."

I shook my head. "I thought you were against abortion," I said. "The Supreme Court's ruling took away a lot of restrictions put on abortion by the states."

He gave me the same smile he used on the simpler members of his flock. "Oh, it did," said Cornpone. "And those pagans on the Supreme Court will go straight to hell for their evil ways,

you can be sure. But — well, here, take a look."

He snapped open his briefcase. It was filled with a worn King James Bible and neat piles of checks and cash. "There's \$507,394.52 in there," he said proudly. "And that's only what came in today's mail. Since the Supreme Court came out with this new decision, contributions to the Righteous Rabble have tripled."

He shut the briefcase. "Yes, ma'am, there's a lesson here. When people think you're winning, you can't get anyone to give a cent. But if you tell them your back's against the wall, the money just pours in."

"You should have heard my speech the other day. When the court made its decision, I said, 'The wrath of God shall descend upon you all!'" Cornpone was shouting now, and his accent became more incomprehensible. "I told the sinful press, 'I tremble for you on the day of judgment. For in these last days, Jay-sus sayeth unto you —'" He stopped himself. "Sorry. I seem to have gotten carried away a bit."

I waited for Cornpone to calm down. "You did that in front of the press?" I asked in astonishment. "Didn't they think you were crazy or something?"

He shrugged. "I do that on my nationally syndicated TV show every week. It brings in the cash. After that press conference, the Righteous Rabble received contributions of

over a million dollars. Then on my Sunday TV show, I gave a sermon. I said exactly the same things I did in the press conference. Monday, the contributions have been pouring in non-stop, hallelujah!

"The thing is," Cornpone said, "people need a reason to fork over the loot. After Reagan won, I had to keep sending letters to remind people that the fight to pay for Billy Bob Jr.'s braces — I mean, the fight against communism — wasn't over. The Righteous Rabble wasn't even making enough to pay for postage. I even had to start buying ads."

He opened the briefcase again and pulled out a page torn from a magazine. A ragged little girl with big eyes stared at me from the page. "Little Maria is six years old and has never heard of supply-side economics," I read. "Won't you please help?"

"For \$20 a month, you could adopt a child from another country and make him or her into a God-fearing, born-again conservative," said Cornpone. "We were going to give each child a scholarship to Bob Jones University after high school, and even had some kinds ready to go. The only problem was, the ones we had picked out ran away and went to Berkeley."

After the failure of the adoption project, Cornpone said he tried sponsoring Walkathons

for Jesus, Bible Bikeathons, Testament Telethons, Sacred Ice Cream Socials, Rock of Ages Fun Runs and, as a last resort, a sweepstakes offering a first prize of an all-expenses-paid vacation through the Bible Belt accompanied by Sen. Jesse Helms and Jerry Falwell.

Nothing seemed to work.

"All around me, the goals of the Righteous Rabble seemed to be met," Cornpone said. "It looked as though our organization wouldn't be needed any more. I would actually have to go back to work at something hon—God would probably call me to some other great work."

"But just as I thought I would be lost, the Supreme Court comes along and reminds me that the great mission of the Righteous Rabble hasn't been fulfilled yet. There are sinners in this world, and as long as that is true, I don't have to give up my Swiss bank account."

I looked at my watch and noticed that I was already late. "Well, being a watchdog of conservatism and America's morals seems to be a recession-proof job," I said. "It doesn't look like you'll have to dip into that bank account for a long time."

"Damn right I don't," Cornpone said, packing up his belongings. "Now, if only the Supreme Court would decide a juicy obscenity case this week, I could really clean up."

AIDS outbreak stirs homophobia among right wingers

By MORTON KONDRAKE

New York, June 20 — As if AIDS victims do not suffer enough already, and as if the rest of us are not worried enough about the spread of this mysterious killer, some conservatives are about to use the disease to spread panic and hatred against the gay rights movement.

"AIDS Epidemic: The Price of Promiscuity" is the headline across the top of page 5 of the current issue of Human Events, the conservative movement's principal weekly publication, and its article goes on to blame the victims for their disease and for its spread in the population.

AIDS, as almost everybody knows now, stands for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, a malady that attacks the body's ability to defend itself against other diseases, including cancer. The exact cause is unknown. There is no cure and about 80 percent of the patients diagnosed as having the disease have died within two years.

So far, the number of victims is small — about 1,550. About three-quarters are active male homosexuals, 17 percent intravenous drug users, 4 percent Haitians, and 1 percent hemophiliacs. Four or five new cases are reported per day.

There is one documented case of AIDS in a New York sanitation worker who does not fit into any of those high-risk groups, 11 cases among women who have had sex with high-risk men, 25 among children with infected mothers, and 10 cases in which non-hemophiliacs have acquired the disease through blood transfusions. The total of non-high risk group cases is about 75, or 5 percent of the national total.

Clearly, measures have to be taken to combat the disease and limit its spread, including some that gay rights activists now oppose. But the right wing seems eager to convert the epidemic into either a panic or an inquisition.

Conservative columnist Patrick Buchanan is one of those leading the charge. "The poor homosexuals," he wrote in one column, "they have declared war upon nature and now nature is exacting an awful retribution."

In another column he cited one sentence in The New York Times indicating that AIDS could be transmitted sexually or by "routine close contact," and went into orbit.

"Routine close contact! Surely that would include the daily work of pediatricians and custodians in day care centers, would it not?" wrote Buchanan.

In fact, there is not a single case of a health care worker having contracted AIDS — even among those who work closely with victims of the disease.

Buchanan and other rightists are raising the specter that homosexual blood donors will infect Americans by the thousands, who will in turn infect others with whom they come in close contact, spreading the disease like the black plague and devastating the population.

One suggested remedy: Close down all commercial blood banks. Another: Forbid homosexuals to give blood. And, while we are at it, forbid them from handling food because some homosexuals have a high rate of hepatitis.

"Incredibly," Human Events commented on one congressional hearing, "not one representative even hinted that the

homosexuals themselves bear some responsibility for the disorder or that the homosexual "lifestyle" has played any role in the AIDS epidemic. The reason is obvious. It is a 'lifestyle' that in some cases involves use of drugs, sadomasochism, and bizarre sexual encounters with literally hundreds or thousands of 'partners' over a lifetime."

I share the conservatives' distaste for drugs, promiscuity and bizarre sex, whether practiced by homo- or heterosexuals. Any fair-minded person, straight or gay, would have to acknowledge that 1,160 sex partners (the average in the lifetime of an AIDS victim, estimated by the federal Center for Disease Control) is extreme.

Still, if AIDS is the penalty for promiscuity, the sentence of death is awfully high. The victims and potential victims do not need hounding from the public, but calm action toward prevention and a cure.

There is a need for screening out high-risk persons from blood donor programs, and the gay rights movement ought to take the lead in urging highly active homosexuals not to give blood in programs that might spread the disease. Unfortunately, many gay rights leaders have suggested that exclusion — even undertaken voluntarily — constitutes discrimination.

Unlike some of its conservative supporters, the Reagan administration is behaving responsibly. It has increased research funding and has attempted to assure the public that there is little danger of a spread throughout the population. That's the best approach; hysteria isn't.

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Fred AND FLIP



Music

'Crazed' Burton keeps rocking in second release

Charlie, Charlie, Charlie. What more can one say? The man makes his audience consider the possibility that not everyone on this tormented planet thinks everything is normal.

Of course, I'm talking about crazed Lincolnite Charlie Burton, who has been rocking on the Omaha and Lincoln scenes for the past eight years. He's just released his second album, "Don't Fight the Band That Needs You," recorded at Spectrum studios in Lincoln.

Anyone who has seen Charlie perform live will be familiar with the material on this album. For the most part, the songs are his most successful live renditions of more recent vintage than his first album, "Is That Charlie Burton or What?!"

The transition from live show to vinyl works especially well if one can recall the tortured facial expressions and spastic convulsions that accompany the live performances.

For the uninitiated, Charlie will sometimes disappear from sight almost entirely during a song. He may enter the audience on his knees and lay his head down on a table, all the while

belting out the lyrics. Then, as he writhes on the floor, his voice rises, eerily disembodied, prompting half his audience to stand craning their necks attempting to catch a glimpse of where he may have gone.

The voice could only belong to Charlie. Deep and Elvis-like resonances mix equally with the high-pitched screams that are suitable only for him or an ancient banshee recently disturbed from its hauntings. The voice entrails.

What listeners lose by not seeing Charlie live is compensated by his always entertaining, often brilliant lyrics. Who else would open an album with a song ("I, 41, Don't Care!") that says, "I for one think it's nice/that your heart's been broken once or twice?"

Charlie doesn't believe in all of the sweetness and light that many songwriters disgorge upon their listeners. This attitude probably helped win him the adulation of local punks, but he doesn't fit into any category. He refuses to let his music be stereotyped.

Some influences evident in this release are country rock in "Succubus," the story of a man visited by a sexual spirit each night; fifties rock in "Little Stabs of Happiness," a sort of poem about the difficulties of love; and flat-out rock 'n' roll in "Mary Beth," an elegy to a girl described as "venom in denim of the worst variety."

This album might be launched and carried by the vigor of Charlie's voice and lyrics, but it wouldn't carry quite as far without the usual excellent, tight play of his band, "The Cutouts."

Backing Burton on lead guitar is Phil Shoemaker and on drums, Dave Robel. This album also marks the departure of bass player and long-time associate Otto Spalti.

Charlie is a relentless rocker, and tailors his music to get the message across. Don't expect to get much rest while listening to this record. If anyone can successfully translate live energy into the studio and then into your living room, this man can.

— KEVIN COLE

What's Next

UNO's "Carnival Theatre on the Green" will end this weekend with "Mandrake" at 8 p.m. tonight and tomorrow night, and a Festival Orchestra presentation of "Highlights of Musical Theatre" on Sunday.

Pre-shows begin at 6:30 p.m. before each show.

All performances are in the Pep Bowl south of the Eppley Building.

Admission is \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children, students and senior citizens.

Sherwood Forest
The Student Programming Organization will present "The Adventures of Robin Hood" tonight and tomorrow night at 9 p.m.

The location of SPO's summer film showings has been changed to a site east of the CBA Building. Spectators are invited to bring lawn

chairs or blankets for seating. In case of bad weather, the film will be presented in the Eppley Building Auditorium.

The film is free to the public.

Costs \$\$\$

The UNO chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists seeks new members. The organization is open to all UNO communication students and, as far as we know, anyone who wants to pay the membership fee. Contact your SDX representative at 554-2470 or the communication department.

What's Next is a weekly feature. Information for publication should be in The Gateway office by 1 p.m. the preceding Friday. Due to space limitations, priority is given to timely announcements by campus organizations.

A night with Omaha Magic Revue

UNO 'Houdinis' perform illusions

Two UNO students, Steve Penn and Burke Petersen, executed amazing feats of hocus-pocus in their first large audience performance at the Emmy Gifford Children's Theater last Saturday night.

Although the show was a little rough around the edges, these two magicians had no less enthusiasm in their stage antics than did their audience.

The show opened with what was billed as the first Omaha performance of the "Electric Lady Illusion," in which their assistant, Richelle Preisendorf, "magically" appears inside an electrically illuminated paper screen without even showing as much as a shadow.

Penn and Petersen then did solo routines with less spectacular sleight-of-hand tricks and illusions with the ubiquitous cards, disappearing balls, scarves and linking rings. Petersen even made a (paper) rabbit pop out of a (paper) hat.

Petersen's deliberate bumbling and bright repartee elicited enthusiastic responses from the audience (estimated at 250), many of whom were children who yelled delightedly when they "caught" his slip-ups.

Penn, a Gateway staff writer, performed a classic routine with less talking and a more dramatic flavor. The highlight of his performance was the "Headline Prediction," in which he correctly predicted a headline selected by a member of the audience.

Both magicians, who call themselves the Omaha Magic Revue, appeared on a television program a couple of days before the show. At that time, Penn wrote down his prediction, and it was then put in a series of locked boxes until the night of the show.

Petersen's special act of the evening was "Walking Through Glass," in which he somehow squeezed himself through a three-inch hole in a large sheet of glass.

The closing act was the most spectacular and very Houdinian. In "The Amazing Metamorphosis," Penn and Petersen exchange places in a split-second in a locked and chained solid wooden box.

The duo says it has "more than 20 years of combined experience in clubs and theaters." They aren't Houdinis, Copperfields, or Hennings yet, but they're well on their way.

— LISA BARRETT

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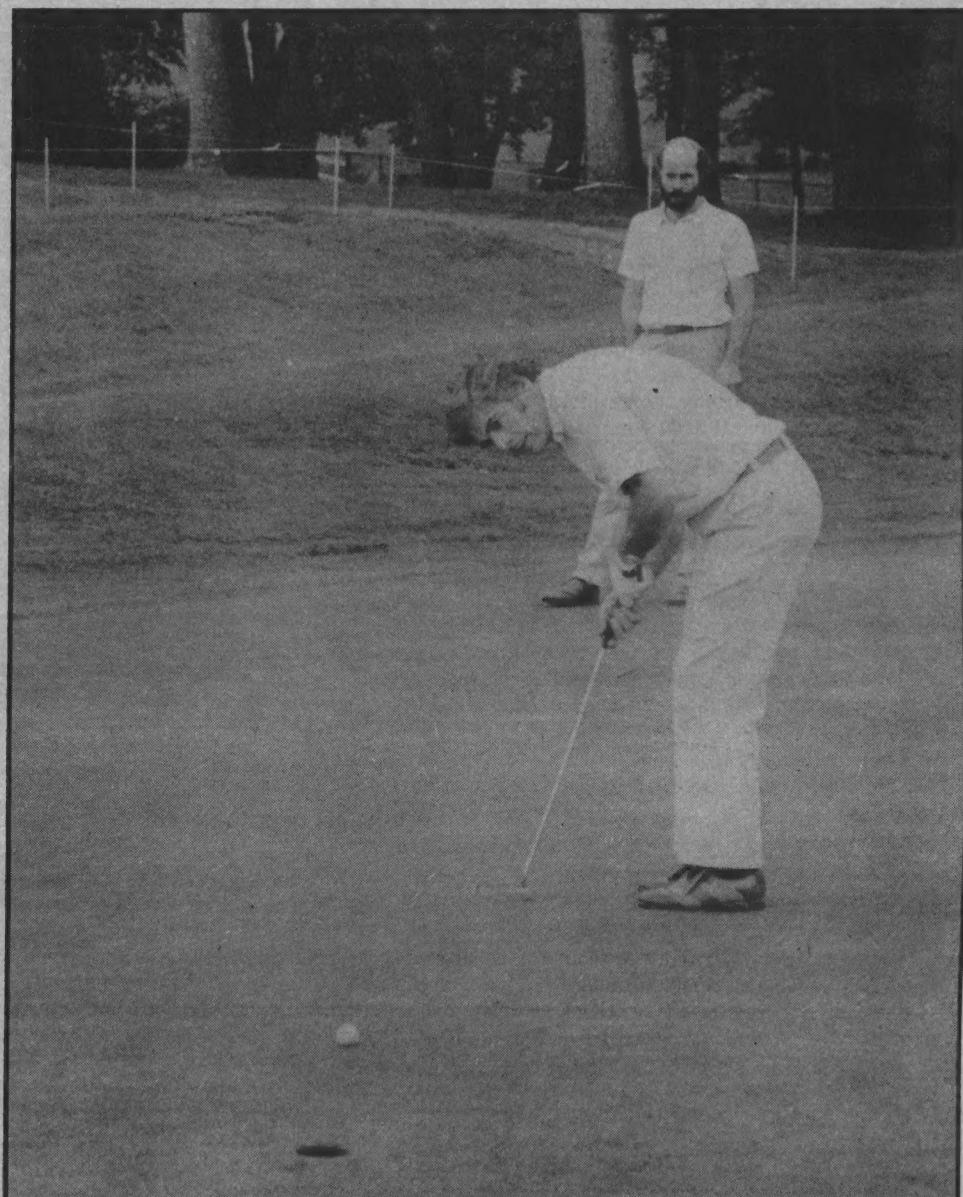
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Sports



Roger Hamer

Watch the birdie . . . Robert Runyon attempts to hole out as Dave Paas looks on.

UNO sport guides gain honors

By ERIC OLSON

The UNO sports information office, directed by Gary Anderson, recently received five national honors in media guide competition.

Among Division II schools, the women's cross country guide, Lady May basketball guide cover, and Maverick football guide cover were judged best in the nation. The women's volleyball and men's wrestling guides placed second in the nation in their categories.

Although Anderson said he is appreciative of the awards, his primary concern in producing the guides is for helping the school and the coaches recruit. "By having an attractive guide, you show what a first-class program the school has," he said.

He said a media guide can be the first contact a prospective recruit has with UNO.

"If our guide is good and attention-getting, it may be better than any other guide that athlete will see from another Division II school," he said.

The guides also serve as an information outlet for the media. Among the booklets' features are players' and coaches' biographies, statistics, schedules, and rosters.

Anderson said he and his staff concentrate their efforts on the football and basketball guides, which take up to three months to produce. Distribution numbers range from 1,200

football guides to 300 track guides.

Anderson, who re-designed UNO media guides across the board last year, writes the men's sports guides with the help of assistant Mike Patterson. Assistant Ernie May writes the women's guides.

Compiling information for each guide is not as difficult as one might think, according to Anderson. The department keeps up-to-date statistics throughout the year on each sport, and incorporates them in the guides each year. Information is obtained through questionnaires and written comments by coaches.

The overall success of a media guide is not measured by the number of awards it wins or the number of recruits it gains for the school, but by the coach's reaction to it, according to Anderson.

"I feel a guide is successful if the coach is happy with it. If he isn't happy and it wins an award, it doesn't mean anything," he said.

In addition to producing and distributing media guides, other duties of the sports information office include compilation of statistics, writing of press releases, and responsibility for all sports publicity.

Anderson also said his staff distributes game programs, operates scoreboards, and sets up the public address system at all athletic events.

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THE GATEWAY

Comment

'Bizarre bunch' disguise themselves as softball team

By KEVIN COLE

I, like thousands of other Omahans, do the usual things to pass the drowsy summer days and evenings. We all know that Omaha is the Softball Capital of the world, right? Well, in keeping with that grand title, I and a number of my friends have each year for the past seven entered a team in the Omaha Softball Association.

Ours is probably a fairly unusual team. It's not that we don't try to win, we just don't care whether we do. We are scrupulous adherents to Grantland Rice's famous statement about "how you play the game."

The name of our team might give one an idea of how we play the game. We are known

officially as The North Omaha Rats. Informally, our jerseys bear the simple title of Rats.

Over the past few years we have done everything imaginable to spice up our Thursday night sortie. Each year we select one game as our designated pajama game. For that event, the entire team must arrive and play in the most outlandish sleepwear possible. Neighbors gawk and the other team mumbles softly about "nuts."

Similarly, there is the annual baggy pants game in which all team members must wear the most baggy and ill-fitting pants they can find.

The upshot of this affair is that a routine single can turn into an adventure equalled only

by the entire Star Wars saga, as a player may trip as many as three times on the way to any given base.

Indeed, one game was lost when one Rat, clad in size 54 hospital pants, fell midway between third base and home and was unable to get up. He was eventually tagged out by a third baseman in the throes of near-hysterical laughter.

Dressing up is a favorite touch for our team as the opposition is usually caught off guard when it takes the field against a team featuring the Blues Brothers in left and center fields.

But whether the Rats dress for the occasion or not, Thursday night on the ball field is bound

to produce a comedy of errors.

At various times any of these things can happen and have: Three outfielders colliding while chasing a pop fly, letting it drop to the ground while the batter circles the bases; another outfielder attempting to catch the ball barehanded while hiding his illegal beer in his glove; the entire team missing a routine play because it was intently watching a sweet young thing pedal past the field.

While this team may sound to you like a bizarre bunch, if you examine your own team's foibles, we probably aren't all that unusual. After all, we have our priorities straight. The sooner we're off the field, the sooner we're at the bar.

Notes

(continued from page 7)

sonal best of 47.7 in the 400 meters.

Other signees

Karen Osada of Ponca, Neb., who placed in the state Class C high school track and field meet four years in a row, has signed a national letter of intent to attend UNO, according to women's track coach Bob Condon.

Osada is listed in the Who's Who Among American High School Students and is a National Honor Society Member. She holds conference records in the 3,200 and 1,600 meters. Osada also holds several meet records.

Softball

UNO has signed three softball players to letters of intent, according to coach Chris Miner. They are Kathy Gass of Westside, Staci Cook of Papillion and Debbie Gildersleeve of Northwest.

Gass, an outfielder, also was named to the McDonald's All-America soccer team. Cook, a shortstop, was an All-Metro basketball selection and an honorable mention on the All-State basketball team. Gildersleeve plays first base as well as pitcher.

Wrestling

UNO wrestling coach Mike Denney has announced the signing of four recruits to national letters of intent.

The recruits are: R. J. Nebe of Millard North, who was third in the Nebraska Class A meet with a 27-2 record; John Moorehead of Plattsburgh, second in Class A at 27-2-1; Kyle Seibel of Vermillion, S.D., with a 12-1 record and second in the state meet; and Brad Hildebrandt of Griswold, Iowa, state runner-up with a 31-1 record.

"These are four very talented athletes who could help us very soon," said Denney.

'Baseball prices fan out of the park'

By MAXWELL GLEN and CODY SHEARER

Washington — A few years back, when a well-known company equated baseball with the virtues of hot dogs, apple pie and automobiles, we should have realized something was rotten.

Though not poisonous, fattening or over-regulated, America's favorite pastime seemed to suffer from an illness common to American industry: skyrocketing salaries, entrepreneurial shenanigans, worker dissatisfaction and the like.

The 1981 strike confirmed our fears that America's Grand Old Game is serious business and, like so many others, could be cracking under the weight of ludicrous commercialization.

The problem is while player salaries have risen 250 percent since 1972, gate receipts — baseball's single largest revenue source — are up only 59 percent. In order to pay for their multi-million dollar sluggers, team owners have transformed a spectator sport into a multi-media spectacle.

Trips to the ballpark today approach visits to Disney World. We're drawn into the stadium by free posters, decal-covered windbreakers and team mugs. Once inside, we're seduced by ragtime bands, computerized scoreboards, fireworks displays and sexy base sweepers. Keeping one's eye on the ball is now a sideshow.

Even at traditional ballparks such as Wrigley Field (home of the Chicago Cubs), owners feel compelled to recruit "The Chicken" and other clowns that roam the stands and entertain the fans.

Whatever gimmicks owners dream up, gate receipts can never

keep pace with free agent salaries (the average baseball player earns \$185,000 annually; football players collect about \$83,000 per year). In 1980, despite near-record attendance levels, only nine of 26 baseball teams earned a profit.

In the future, a team's success — at the bank and on the field — will be more closely linked to its ability to harness the local television market. Teams with large television audiences — Los Angeles and New York, for example — will fare far better than those without, such as Seattle or Milwaukee. Short of revenue-sharing schemes, which function in professional football, the already-successful baseball teams may be the only ones to grow richer and better.

What could prove devastating, however, are the numerous cable television agreements now under negotiation or already in operation. Chicago White Sox fans must now pay a \$52.95 installation fee and \$21.95 per month for a decoder box to watch their club on television. A dozen other teams are working on similar deals.

"Sure, we expect some protest from our fans, but if they want their team to be competitive, they've got to understand the economics of baseball today," explained one White Sox spokesman.

*"So it's loot, loot, loot for the home team,
If the fans get mad it's a shame,
Pay 'em one, two, three million bucks,
Or you're out of the Old Ball Game."*

Field Newspaper Syndicate

Classifieds

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Next week:

YANKEE DOODLE DANDY

Begin your 4th of July celebration early! Friday, July 1, and Saturday, July 2, at 9 p.m. in the CBA Bowl.

**THE BIGGEST BURGER
AT THE BEST PRICE!**

OUR 1/4 POUND HAMBURGER ONLY \$1.14

72ND & FARNSWORTH

Offer expires July 8

RUNZA HUT Eat in Carry out